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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/726,460	12/02/2003	Stephen G. Abel	H0005346	5859
128	7590	07/14/2006	EXAMINER	
HONEYWELL INTERNATIONAL INC. 101 COLUMBIA ROAD P O BOX 2245 MORRISTOWN, NJ 07962-2245			CLEMENT, MICHELLE RENEE	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3641	

DATE MAILED: 07/14/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments filed 5/3/06 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. With regards to applicant's arguments that the prior art of record does not disclose or teach "igniting the symmetrical individual solid propellant grains in such a way that the grains are consumed in a manner that is substantially symmetrical with respect to the line", it is noted that grains formed of the same material, of the same density and of the same shape with the same amount of surface are when ignited at the same time at the same position will inherently be consumed at the same rate. Applicant's remaining arguments with respect to the claims have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

3. Claims 32-38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

4. Claim 32 recites the limitation "the solid propellant grain assembly" in line 6. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim in that applicant has previously claimed "a single grain assembly" and "a plurality of individual solid propellant grains", it is not clear which applicant is referencing or if applicant intends an additional element.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

6. Claims 32-38, rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by **any one of** Schluter (US Patent # 3,260,208), Harper (US Patent # 3,002,459), Keathley et al. (US Patent # 3,008,417), Guay (US Patent # 3,010,400), or Fox (US Patent # 3,144,829). Any one of the previous disclose a device and method of producing a gas comprising forming a single grain assembly from a plurality of individual solid propellant grains, the plurality of individual solid propellant grains arranged so that at least two of the individual solid propellant grains are shaped and oriented in such a way that they are symmetrical with respect to each other about a line and igniting the symmetrical individual solid propellant grains in such a way that the individual solid propellant grains are consumed in a manner that is *substantially* symmetrical with respect to the line. Wherein the individual solid propellant grains are arranged in pairs and the individual solid propellant grains in each pair are substantially symmetrical with respect to each other. Wherein the step of igniting includes the step of igniting the individual solid propellant grains only in pairs. Wherein the at least two individual solid propellant grains are ignited simultaneously. Wherein the step of igniting the at least two individual solid propellant grains simultaneously includes the step of igniting the at least two individual solid propellant grains simultaneously at two different points on each grain (along an entire surface constitutes two different points). Wherein a pair of the plurality of individual solid propellant grains is arranged differently in at

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least one of size and shape from the at least two individual solid propellant grains and the at least two individual solid propellant grains are ignited before the pair of individual solid propellant grains. Wherein the at least two individual solid propellant grains are arranged so that they extend from respective first end portions to respective second end portions and the at least two individual solid propellant grains are arranged so as to provide a channel between the first and second end portions of at least one individual solid propellant grain.

Conclusion

7. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).


A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michelle (Shelley) Clement whose telephone number is 571.272.6884. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday thru Thursday 9-5.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Carone can be reached on 571.272.6873. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


MICHELLE CLEMENT
PRIMARY EXAMINER